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## Student named athlete of the year

### BY JAMES HARRIS

A Conestoga College student has been named Cambridge athlete of the year.

At the 39th annual Cambridge Sports Awards on Nov. 1, Ashley Nichols, who competes in martial arts, beat out six other athletes — runners Nathan Branson and Justin Elwood, water poloer Jason McIlmook and Whiskey McIntosh, gymnast Vanessa Moore and powerlifter Brennan.

The event recognizes those athletes who are involved in individual and team sports at a provincial, national or international level.

Nichols, a second-year police foundation student at Conestoga, had been nominated twice before for the Tim Toner Award for athlete of the year.

The honour, in past, one of many for Nichols. In the past year alone, she has won three gold medals.

Last month at the 2012 International World Games Games in St. Petersburg, Russia, she won a bronze medal.

Nichols is the first woman from a First Nations tribe to win a world professional title, which she did in Thailand. She belongs to the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation and Oneida Nation.

Although she loves competing, Nichols said her main goal right now is to graduate from college and then apply to local university near that her con-

nections are done for the year.

"For the last few years with being a national team member, I've been called away a couple times for a few tournaments and that kind of affects my attendance marks," she said. "Now that the competitions have finished for the year, for me, I can focus on my grades and my course and everything."

She said her training actually helps her with her police foundation program as well.

"With martial arts or any type of combat sport or any type of fitness, it helps with increasing your stress levels and it helps with group work energy. It helps with stress management — I think that's important too and it helps keep you fit."

Nichols has been doing martial arts for six and a half years and said that Brazilian jiu-jitsu is still a little new for her.

"When I say new, I mean for the amount of knowledge there is to gain in both I've been doing Brazilian jiu-jitsu for three and a half years now, so I feel like that's new."

"The key to it all?" "It's always finding a balance between everything that you're doing."

Nichols, originally from Winnipeg, moved to Cambridge to be closer to her family.

She has a lot of respect for her coaches, referring to them as her mentors.

"In martial art sport we always pay homage to our



PHOTO BY JAMES HARRIS

Ashley Nichols, a second-year police foundation student at Conestoga College, is the first woman from a First Nations tribe to win a world professional title. She has won three gold medals in the past year.

teachers because they spend so much time and their bodies, their students will do well.

Nichols said.

"My coaches, Ken Chen and my Brazilian jiu-jitsu coach Ken

Jeff — I'm very thankful to them for all the effort and all the time we've been together doing this."

## CSI increases spending in revised budget

### BY JAMES HARRIS

A surplus of \$345,000 arose out of the 2011-12 fiscal year, six years of operation due to increased student enrolment in new faculty in the branches of Conestoga (Students Inc.) first-year budget review.

The new budget, portions of which were revealed at CSI's annual general meeting in Oct. 28, aims to increase spending while the goal of saving up the surplus funds. CSI is not supposed to run a surplus — as a non-profit corporation they could have their non-profit status revoked by the Canada Revenue Agency if that were to continue.



"We always try to budget a deficit to try to end up at the surplus that increased enrolment has resulted in more money coming in than initially thought. If we continue to see a surplus, we will be taxed like a corporation," said James Wright, CSI president.

The company that CSI uses to audit the budget is BDO International, who mandated the documents about accounting the deficit.

"BDO had advised us that

we needed to start saving more of our surplus, other than the CSI would start to question our audit for profit status," Wright said.

The decision to increase the budget is a necessity for CSI, pointing to the need to look seriously at ways to reduce the surplus funds of almost a million dollars which would, for the moment, be a low-interest, guaranteed investment certificate.

Wright says the spending increases are designed to go right back to the students.

"When we revised the budget, we made sure that all our activities were the first ones to see big increases."

That means that students at all campuses can expect bigger and more numerous events this year. The CSI's campus will receive \$45,000 in total over three or four months as a consequence of increased enrolment, while all other campuses will see their overall budget increase by an additional \$15,000.

Wright says specific plans for those new funds are up to the co-ordinator for each campus but the funds will translate to better event support and better new events in the winter semester.

"I know at our Waterloo campus we will try to have more events throughout the

month. I know Cambridge is looking for bigger events and more events to work," Wright said.

The revised budget also includes a large increase in funding for the shuttle bus service, to allow for increased demand and an intended future purchase of a larger bus that is better able to handle the local climate.

One of the shuttles was in use in a southern state and all meant for the Canadian rail Wright said. The new bus would need to be custom-built, and that the process would take six months.

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## Now deep thoughts ... with Conestoga College

Random questions answered by random students:

If you could pick your own  
nickname, what would it be?



"Scare."

**Sarah Bray,**  
second-year  
broadcast television

"Foggy, because everybody  
calls me that."

**Mike Ferguson,**  
second-year  
broadcast television



"Leo, my baby cousin calls me that."

**Laine Carpenter,**  
first-year  
police/security and  
investigation

"Baby Moon."

**Ben Yarnes,**  
second-year  
broadcast television



"Telecast."

**Brittany Ives,**  
second-year  
broadcast television

"Edward (Beyoncé), because  
Back to the Future is the  
greatest film ever created."

**Lee Santiago,**  
second-year  
broadcast television



(Safe Conestoga, you could be our next respondent!)



PHOTO BY KIMMY BOWMAN

dan Kennedy's Student Life programmes made a point to have Conestoga as students, faculty and staff reflect on the past at the Remembrance Day ceremony at Conestoga College on Nov. 12.

## Conestoga College remembers

### BY KIMMY BOWMAN

Two minutes of silence is observed on Remembrance Day to let us reflect on and honour the many soldiers who have given their lives and those who continue to serve.

At Conestoga College on the Avenue on Nov. 11, a ceremony put on by Student Life allowed students, faculty and staff to gather together to remember.

The ceremony got underway from Myrtus Henry sang songs of Remembrance, and the recitation of poet Lisa Goodwin's poem, *Why Wear a Poppy*, read by Dan Kennedy, Student Life programmer and organizer of the ceremony.

A boy name shouting about the street,  
looking along as anyone past,  
his work was full of joy and fire,

"Loud!" he said "May I have one!"

When the poem is on, he turned to say,

"Why do we wear a poppy today?"

The boy smiled at her and fell away  
and disappeared.

**"THIS IS REMEMBRANCE DAY"**  
and the poppy there as a symbol for  
the fallen men who died in war,

and because they did, you and I are free.

That's why we wear a poppy you see."

A montage of photos and footage from an episode was shown right before the two minutes of silence was observed out of respect for the thousands who gave their life in service.

In addition Gordon Goodwin and Gary Goodwin were awarded the privilege to remember their family and loved ones lost in battle. Goodwin was a lieutenant-colonel in the the Force and is currently the dean of the School of Liberal Studies and Goodwin was a lieutenant-colonel and is presently the chair of the School of Business at Conestoga College.

"I was standing today for my dad, he was a poppy," said Goodwin.

"I am standing for two men who died in the United World War, and a boy friend who died in the peace competition," Goodwin said.



## WINTER IS IN SIGHT

The last few fall leaves clinging to the trees along a trail in the deeper part of Conestoga's winter approach, the week will see below average temperatures, with a chilly low of -6 C on Wednesday.

PHOTO BY  
CALLIE HINGGLESBY-DYER

# Revised budget will reduce \$945,000 surplus

CSI increases spending for shuttle service, student events and cheap pizza as well as full-time staff salaries, staff conferences and retreats

## BY JASON WRIGHT

Wright says CSI is focused on making sure that they support a Canadian company when placing the order for a future vehicle.

"There have been some issues with the existing buses we've allocated money in the budget for it."

Half a million dollars of the surplus money has also been put aside for a "capital development project," but Wright refused to confirm that the funds were for the upcoming two centre renovations. CSI general manager Jean Barwick and Wright are both part of the management team on that project.

## “We’re not parking the numbers out of thin air.”

— CSI president  
Jason Wright

Even with the revision, the surplus was a little less than needed this year, but Wright says the new budget is the first step in eliminating the surplus “over a number of years.”

## WHAT ELSE?

Besides raising the shuttle bus service, the CSI budget includes extra for a number of other items.

The CSI meal subsidy, last priced at \$44,000, is rising a couple of \$2 points at the Secondary Centre on Tuesday. Wright says the subsidy required a budget increase because unprecedented interest in cheap pizza meant the program was “breaking even.”

Another part of the budget expense is devoted to enhancing the thermoreactive around campus. The Deon campus cafeteria and School of Business recently benefited from some upgrades, but CSI president Jason Wright says they’re looking at other programs as well.

“We are still looking at enhancing the Secondary for future use as well, and maybe adding a little bit more to the building at the Arroyo.”

While there has been a considerable increase in student financial spending, there are still cost levers to be paid.

After the budget revision, full-time and part-time per-

sonnel will cost students \$462,800 this year. The \$42,800 increase over the previous figure is because CSI is looking at having two full-time staff members on one-year contracts instead of who would replace a current full-time employee who is away on maternity leave.

Salaries for full-time CSI staff are calculated using staff were called PayScale, which gives employers an idea of what an employee should be paid in the current market.

“We’re not pulling the numbers out of thin air,” Wright said.

Parking spots for full-time CSI staff are covered in the budget, but in the new data, none provided to SPORC, those costs are no longer a separate item but included as part of the previously mentioned \$462,800 figure.

CSI pays for 63 parking spots for full-time staff, but Wright says that the amount budgeted is more than enough to cover the spots. Full-time staff also have leave entitlement plans and travel mileage for CSI purposes covered.

The revised budget also increases funding for CSI to attend conferences and events for professional development reasons. A \$30,000 increase in the budget entry will allow staff at the board of directors to attend the upcoming meeting of the National Center for Student Leadership in New Orleans on Nov. 11, which previously only full-time staff would have been in attendance.

“It’s where we get all of our speakers for our leadership conference — they are phenomenal speakers and that’s why we bring them in,” Wright said.

A student leadership program, which includes a leadership conference for students, to include a big ticket item at a budgeted amount of \$140,000 (in the previous, the conference and associated expenses represented between \$4 and \$6 per seat, according to Wright and leadership development coordinator Lisa Seale. The conference took place on Nov. 17 and 18 at Nagshead.

The student leadership program also includes a leadership conference program which allows students to volunteer time to plan some events, and a global service leadership component where



Photo by Jason Wright

Ordered for the CSI shuttle service continues to grow, and funds have been budgeted to allow for the purchase of a new vehicle with better cold-weather capabilities.



Photo by Jason Wright

The section of the Deon campus cafeteria immediately adjacent to the School of Business had new couches and tables added as part of the budget. A \$70,000 only for student furniture and tables.

students are sent to support communities on a less formal scale part of the world.

The budget also includes some funds which are contributed to charitable organizations. Among others, the budget includes a \$1,500 donation to Christian Heros, a faith-based organization that serves people with developmental disabilities in Ontario. In some cases CSI donation money is paid to these people with disabilities as a sort of paycheck, about a small sum.

“They are around and they collect signatures around the campus — they’re normally been with an individual that delivers them around to make sure nothing goes wrong,” Wright said of their contribu-

tions, which take place across all campuses.

When asked about the decision to support a Christian faith-based organization, Wright said it was made in the past.

“As far as I know, it’s been a part of the organization since before my time, so it’s been implemented by past boards of directors — as of right now, we don’t foresee any changes over the next.”

Those interested in looking at the budget for themselves should check CSI’s website periodically. Students who attended CSI’s annual general meeting were told that the budget would be available online on the CSI website, at press time, it was not.

## CSI REVENUE SOURCES

- **\$7-12.50 per student:** Student fees. Students at the regional campus pay at the bottom end of this range and Deon and Cambridge at the top-end.
- **\$1.8 million:** Total projected student that they receive this year. This represents the largest source of actual revenue in the budget.
- **\$5.8 million:** Health plan fees (being a little amount in revenue, but most of this is paid out to the insurer who provides the plan).
- **\$48,000:** The amount that CSI will save by hiring only part-time employees who qualify for the work study program. This means they must be able to demonstrate financial need to work part-time for CSI.
- **\$10,000:** The projected amount that Tim Heaton and the Secondary Gate will pay to CSI this year for the use of the space.
- **\$18,000:** Total meals projected for CSI events this year.
- **\$7,000:** The amount that the surplus is expected to generate in interest.



# K-W Symphony kicks off new season

BY JAMES GIBSON

Are you a fan of excellent chamber music? Are you a student with 114 who is just getting accustomed to sit on a cold night on the city?

If so, check out the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony and their latest 2013/2014 season.

After four years of the International series, KWS celebrated its 10th year with International Series on Nov. 4 and 5.

Conducted by KWS director

**“When everything comes together with the full orchestra the result is really mind-blowing.”**

— Edwin Gutwater

Edwin Gutwater, the series of performances featured some of the most popular pieces from past international shows, including Ludwig, a piece written by co-founder of The Kitchener-Waterloo, Andy Cowan.

“I’ve been working with such amazing musicians and staff,” Gutwater said. “And when everything comes together on with the full orchestra, the result is really mind-blowing.”

The night began with a song never performed as an orchestral piece, a chamber-sized album. It was written by American composer Bryce Dessner, drawing inspiration from songs of his parents,

who were Jewish immigrants.

Next in line were The Polaroid and the Sound of the Winter Season, two beautiful original pieces from Kitchener-Waterloo and Kitchener-Waterloo. The Sound of the Winter Season, the piece featured electronic music playing on headphones with the symphony playing in sync.

The first part of the symphony was with the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony back in their 2009/2011 season.

While cheering and boisterous applause is a surprise way to get you excited and of a symphony, audience members shared their delight in other ways, such as during the program intermission.

Memoranda around the concert hall showed all too well how the night was going through audience members were reluctant to discuss their opinions.

Creating a concert hall state as the third set, Chicago, Ludwig piece was featured once again, being a favourite from the previous season.

Gutwater said of Ludwig, “It got a really good feel to it, but also an Asian presence kind of thing going on.”

Shaking things up in the final set was Kitchener-Waterloo, a piece by Kitchener-Waterloo for Piano Trio. The piece was written by Kitchener-Waterloo, the Canadian composer took inspiration



PHOTO BY JAMES GIBSON

Edwin Gutwater says the series shows during a performance of 2013, Triple Concerto for Piano Trio, Kitchener-Waterloo by Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony on Nov. 7.

from the music of prog-rock power trio Rush for that set.

The piece was structured around the music of the band, but made to sound as if the record which contained the music had been heavily damaged.

The performance featured

three additional musicians playing the musical side of the band, with Steve Rappin on guitar, Ben Rappin on drums and Ben Rappin on bass.

“Tonight’s concert was really amazing,” Gutwater said. “It is incredible to bring back some of the most

exciting music that we have performed on this series.”

All in all, it was a successful night for the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony. The 2013/2014 season, a performance for more information on the KWS and their programs, visit [www.kwsymphony.ca](http://www.kwsymphony.ca).

## It is too early for Christmas

It’s that time of year again. The time where most of the stores have put out all of their Christmas decorations, candy, cards and gifts. It’s the same time that people always look for their Christmas songs were and over and over again could mean of us because of that.

Most retailers were out and after Thanksgiving (like Nov. 11) to start putting up their Christmas decorations. Most also went out after Thanksgiving Day to start playing Christmas music out of respect for our retailers.

However, some like to get a head start on things. Christmas is just a few days away. So why put their Christmas decorations out before Thanksgiving? That’s right, they had their Thanksgiving and Christmas decorations and decorations on display at the same time.

Shoppers Drug Mart actually played their Christmas music in early last year that they received a backlash from



Kandi Clarke  
Opinion

customers who were upset with them for playing the music before Thanksgiving Day. Even the companies have a little taste about it.

“It was disrespectful. Not just to our retailers, but to everyone,” said a Shopper Drug Mart employee, who wanted to remain anonymous. “It’s not a head start on things. Christmas is just a few days away. So why put their Christmas decorations out before Thanksgiving? That’s right, they had their Thanksgiving and Christmas decorations and decorations on display at the same time.”

Shoppers Drug Mart actually played their Christmas music in early last year that they received a backlash from

cheer to their day.

“We want to have the doors open and the shopping in November,” said a regular Shopper Drug Mart customer. “I realize it’s a little early and all, but everything is just so cheesy about Christmas. Why not have that cheer come a little earlier?” I don’t think that’s anything wrong with that.

While the music and decorations may seem like a bit much in November, it is a good idea to get started on your Christmas shopping a little early. This way you can save your money and buy for everyone on your list before the last minute Christmas Eve shoppers.

After all, you don’t want to be one of those who say, “Personally, I like getting my Christmas shopping done as soon as I possibly can.”

Shoppers Drug Mart employees said, “Sometimes I even shop in September.”

### COUNSELLOR'S CORNER: Jody



When we are going through difficult times, it may seem hard to remain positive. People who have experienced suicide may feel hopeless, hopeless, or even feel that they are in a state of despair. If you are struggling with these feelings, or if you are struggling with a loved one who is struggling, there are some things you can do to help.

- **1. Talk to your doctor.** Talking about your feelings with your doctor can help you feel better.
- **2. Talk to your family.** Talking about your feelings with your family can help you feel better.
- **3. Talk to your friends.** Talking about your feelings with your friends can help you feel better.
- **4. Talk to your community.** Talking about your feelings with your community can help you feel better.
- **5. Talk to your religious leader.** Talking about your feelings with your religious leader can help you feel better.
- **6. Talk to your employer.** Talking about your feelings with your employer can help you feel better.
- **7. Talk to your lawyer.** Talking about your feelings with your lawyer can help you feel better.
- **8. Talk to your accountant.** Talking about your feelings with your accountant can help you feel better.
- **9. Talk to your insurance agent.** Talking about your feelings with your insurance agent can help you feel better.
- **10. Talk to your realtor.** Talking about your feelings with your realtor can help you feel better.

If you suspect that someone may be suicidal, ask them about it, and encourage them to seek help. If you suspect that someone may be suicidal, ask them about it, and encourage them to seek help.

For more information on the importance of suicide prevention, visit [www.suicideprevention.ca](http://www.suicideprevention.ca). For more information on the importance of suicide prevention, visit [www.suicideprevention.ca](http://www.suicideprevention.ca). For more information on the importance of suicide prevention, visit [www.suicideprevention.ca](http://www.suicideprevention.ca).





PHOTO BY JAMES HARRISON

First-year electrical engineering technology student Holly Carson takes her talents to the table at the Waterloo campus on Nov. 5.



Carson (left) battles first-year football player James Adams in a thrilling game of tabletop hockey. Students can look forward to a football loss next week tomorrow.

## Conestoga laces up

Tabletop hockey takes over Waterloo campus

BY BRENDA CHIRIBELLA

Conestoga students at the Waterloo campus got to play Canada's greatest game on Nov. 5, but they didn't lace up skates or put on pads.

Conestoga Students Inc. (CSI) set up two tabletop hockey games in the Waterloo campus's B-wing in order to give students a break in between classes and also was gift cards from Future Shop, Tim Hortons and Chapters.

Students stopped to try their luck against their fellow

classmates in games that rewarded the first one to score three goals in the evening.

Two students who stopped to play a quick game of pickup were first-year electrical engineering technology student Holly Carson and first-year tourism management student James Adams. "It's a good way to get everyone together to play something that's distinctly Canadian," Carson said.

"Tabletop hockey is a classic game that a lot of Canadians, guys and girls, play growing up. It's a lot

of fun and we can get some people out to relieve their childhood 'a-ha-ha-ha,' said Joseph Hafford, CSI communications coordinator for the Waterloo campus who was overseeing the event.

When asked what the goal of the event was Hafford said, "It's just to have fun with the students, maybe make a little better environment around here and make the place a little more happening."

Hafford said the next big event, being held at the Waterloo campus was a football on November tomorrow



Adams concentrates while attempting to score.

## CAREER AND EMPLOYMENT RESOURCES

### Rapid Resume Review

Wednesday Nov. 20 | 12pm - 1pm, Lower R.C. Room campus

Get feedback on your resume and learn key tips to get noticed. **No registration is required.**

### Study in Australia

November 28 | 12pm - 1pm, Down campus, Athens

Stop by the table in the Athens to speak with representatives from KDM Consulting about your study options in Australia. **No registration is required.**

## Find great Jobs on MyCareer!

Conestoga's online career and employment solutions system for students and alumni

From the Student Portal, click on the "Services" tab, then MyCareer

From MyConestoga, click on Student Tools, then MyCareer



CONESTOGA COLLEGE OF ARTS & DESIGN



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# Khrushchev's son discusses Cold War

BY SEYMOUR HARTZ

The 1960s was a decade of tumult during the Cold War. What were the two leaders, John F. Kennedy and Nikita Khrushchev — who were currently leading heads — thinking during their final years?

This was the heavy topic of discussion on Nov. 7 at the Centre for International Governance and Innovation, where approximately 200 people gathered in Room 7 at Deepen Khrushchev, James Blight and Josef Long (who spoke last year with a lower gas) moved back in time.

The event, called Six Days When They Might Have Accomplished, featured Khrushchev and Blight also sitting on the emotional and practical problems of both the American and Soviet leaders, with Long as their moderator.

Long, who is a member on a board at the School of International Affairs (SISA), and Blight, the chair of foreign policy development also at the SISA, have been and friends with Khrushchev for quite a few decades.

Khrushchev, who is most

famously known as the man who led the Soviet Union through the most tense years of the Cold War, asked his members of his father's side.

Khrushchev said his father was happy when Kennedy was elected president, because it would give the two nations a chance to patch things up.

"My father told President Kennedy, I was in your side during the election, because he didn't like Nixon," he wanted to resolve problems over Berlin, and he wanted to improve these relations," Khrushchev said.

"He looked at Kennedy as the President of the United States — our adversary — but I do not support that he thought President Kennedy was weak."

Blight, on the other hand, argued that Kennedy's first year as president, 1961, was a complete humiliation, especially at the invasion of the Bay of Pigs. Blight said the president did not understand how a bunch of pigs would invade and overrun Cuba, as the propaganda stated about the Americans.

More at issue at was a policy check — or maybe a personal trigger.

"In 1961, nuclear weapons are possessed by many people in his time, Kennedy was not them as just power of a Kennedy machine," Blight said.

The debate covered many topics including both land and sea wars on major developments, such as the building of the Berlin Wall, and most importantly for Khrushchev, Kennedy's assassination. Audience members said that watching the live stream were allowed to ask questions during the last minutes of the lecture.

Most interestingly a question was asked from an audience member that has been a longstanding question for years in the Cold War community — was?

"Millions of people died in violent conflict during the Cold War. They didn't happen totally to be Americans or Russians, but all over the world the war was fought by proxy states, and there's no reason in his mind about a wholehearted — it was war," Blight said.



PHOTO BY SEYMOUR HARTZ

Joe Blight (center left), Josef Long and Nikita Khrushchev discuss the relations of John F. Kennedy and Nikita Khrushchev in the fall of the 1960s at the Bay of Pigs on Nov. 7, at the Centre for International Governance and Innovation in Waterloo.



Khrushchev prepares his notes before his Cold War debate.



PHOTO BY SEYMOUR HARTZ

Repair Café volunteer David Babcock works on a broken chair at Waterloo Maintenance Nov. 5.



Volunteers work to repair a broken chair from the inside of a dance hall for women's clothes.

## Repair Café volunteers fix all

BY SEYMOUR HARTZ

If it's broken, Repair Café volunteers can fix it.

Organizers of the Repair Café, which was held Nov. 5 around Kitchener residents in living in their old houses, or damaged a physician, two, electronics or clothes to be repaired by skilled workers. Visitors brought in a variety of belongings, from simple watches and pieces to more complicated devices such as computers and car stereo systems.

"We have the skills to repair anything," said Sylvia Spinkman, a repair volunteer and one of the event organizers. She added that the event is about people learning new things and reducing waste.

"It's awesome, it's so much stuff not getting thrown out," she said.

The café was held at Kitchener's own Kitchener Warehouse, a public location that offers kiosk workshops, community meetings and events like this one. The lab's website states that it is a place where members can get together to make things, or be creative and to pool their knowledge and resources to

work on personal projects or bigger collaborations.

"People bring computers, furniture, jewelry, clothes," said Doug Mann, another event organizer who was happy to see so many people bringing things to be repaired and getting to know others in their community.

While this was the first Repair Café to be held in Kitchener, the concept has been popping up all over. Montreal is an international movement that started in the Netherlands, and similar events in that city have been held in Toronto and other Canadian cities in recent months, along with dozens of other locations around the world.

The café had a positive spin, with people talking, laughing and learning while creating things and making connections of the Kitchener.

"I got my bike light fixed," said David Babcock, a volunteer organizer. "Now it's much less and not wasted on the road."

Interested in learning more about the event or the venue? Visit repaircafé.org or kitchenerlab.ca for more information or to see when the next Repair Café will take place in your area.



# Nerds of Kitchener-Waterloo unite

## BY DAVID WATKINS

Do you enjoy science, comic books and other fantasy fiction? Do you enjoy playing sports video games (either then actually playing the sport)? How can you be like called on a nerd, but don't worry, if you live in K-W you're not alone.

Nerd Nite K-W is a social network that is open to anyone in the community but especially includes the culture in our own fiction, history and other nerdy pleasures. It is a growing global network that begins in New York every year, and all these events spread all over the world. They usually meet in a pub, have a few drinks, meet some new people and, of course, learn. There are prizes to be won and games to be played. The non-profit organization promotes itself as a social public club.

Charlotte Armstrong, of the "base" of the K-W chapter which was founded in 2012. She came up with the idea to bring Nerd Nite to K-W when she first started going to meetings in Toronto.

"Two years it was travelling back and forth to go to the Nerd Nite Conventions in Toronto and then it evolved, K-W as

was more nearby," Armstrong said. "This is like the nerd capital of Canada so we should have our own."

Although Nerd Nite events draw a lot of the same people time after time, Armstrong said you don't have to know anybody to come to an event as all are welcome. "A lot of people come by themselves and meet up, making friends and connecting with the community," Armstrong said.

**“This is like the nerd capital of Canada, so we should have one here.”**  
— Charlotte Armstrong

The last event they held was on Nov. 9 at the Rusty Rooster Pub and was called Carl Sagan Night, a homage to a man whose passion for science popularized it. His show *Cosmos: A Personal Voyage* was influential on the careers of many scientists in the field of science today.

Guests of the event could dress up a Carl Sagan paper doll, make a mask out of a photo of his face and watch a one-clip playlet of *Cosmos*.

It was a perfect way to honour the memory of a man who wanted to educate everyone and bring science into homes all over the world. Armstrong said the first time she saw Carl Sagan show is the moment that she fell in love with space. "He was the first scientist to be in the media and you heard the love and passion for science in his voice."

Another popular attraction at the event was the Starline Ball, a state-of-the-art optical reality machine. People could put on a pair of glasses, strap goggles and some motion tracking equipment, and be suddenly transported to a different time or place.

Since the viewer cannot hear or see anything in the real world, the illusion is created of being in the place the machine is projecting. The event also gave with the movement of the viewer's head, so if the projection was the viewer travelling through space, he could look to his left and suddenly see an alien and that he didn't know was there.

For more information on upcoming events and trips go to Nerd Nite K-W's Facebook page.



PHOTO BY DAVID WATKINS

Doug Macdonald sits at the Oculus Rift Virtual reality machine, enjoying a trip around Earth.

## Writers challenged to finish a novel in 30 days

### BY JAMIE BRYCE

For most writers, time runs out. November is known as National Novel Writing Month or NaNoWriMo as it's better known. During November people are to write 50,000 words.

The challenge started in 1999 as an exercise by the founder Chris Rieg. Rieg is a teacher at Stanford University and the author of *Flash Kid* (a Presidential award). He started NaNoWriMo with a group of 31 friends and it grew to become a flock of 300,000 writers from more than 80 countries around the world.

Renee Walsh, a business student at St. Lawrence College in Ontario and author of *The Way of All Flesh*, said as a student she finds it very difficult to maintain her writing during the school year and NaNoWriMo helps her keep up with it.

Thirty times the end of October came, I couldn't find that book that I would use the following month to catch up on my writing over through time in night. That's when you have to find out those techniques and write whatever you get the chance," Walsh said.

The NaNoWriMo website has all sort of information



PHOTO COURTESY

November is National Novel Writing Month.

for writers. They are able to use the forum to discuss the ways of trying to write 50,000 words in just 30 days or learn about the sites to which they are increasing their word count. But there are also places to post constructive or respectful comments to make a great year for novel.

Writing is a very busy time. However, NaNoWriMo gives authors a

chance to interact with each other, but not just online. The forum has set-up a plan for anyone all over the world to plan meet-ups and workshops. There are also ways to get people involved with other writers, to have word count and get writers out of their offices and bedrooms. In Kitchener-Waterloo, we are held at coffee around

the city, such as The Province Café, Starbucks and Moby Mountain Café.

"They're really great for getting word count done, since there's almost always a word count going on and that really makes you handle it is also nice to talk to people about the stress of writing a novel and get their opinion," said Katherine Wines, a Kitchener resident who has been participating in NaNoWriMo since 2009.

There have been over 330 NaNoWriMo novels published by traditional publishers, as opposed to the self-publishing route. One of those novels was *Warrior* by Stephanie by Sara Cohen, which went on to become a film starring Robert Pattinson and Reese Witherspoon. Other NaNoWriMo novels published by traditional means are *Line* by Margaretta Nishi, *Clara* and *Random House's* *Flora*.

"Writing in cold reality, as a self-publisher with a lot of experience, but NaNoWriMo is like boot camp where you can develop a bond with your fellow writers," Walsh said.

But not everyone writes for the purpose of publishing. Some people like Wines, write just for the joy of it.

"I don't even say I finished the 50,000 words," Wines said.

At the end of the month, authors are encouraged to say if they've 50,000 words through the website. If they have completed it, reaching the goal they are rewarded with gifts from the sponsors. Some of the year's prizes include 50 per cent off writing software from Scrivener and Duxbury as well as self-publishing services, such as CreateSpace and Kobo Press Ltd., offering discounts of your novel in either print or ebook form.

The 50,000 word goal in just 30 days can be a lot with little always getting in the way, but participants show that it's possible. There are week by week goals to keep by track to participants encourage them and giving helpful tips from published authors such as James Patterson and Stephen King. On top of that, NaNoWriMo sponsors participants each time they update their word count. That it takes only 1,667 words a day to reach the goal in 30 days.

There is always time to write. Write while you eat, drive up TV. Keep a notebook. Give up some sleep. No matter what, there is always time for writing," Walsh said.



# HOROSCOPE

Week of November 10, 2014



**Aries**  
March 21 -  
April 19

You are as hot as a scorching week. Money problems will be weighing on you, but your persistence can help turn it around. *This weekend: catching up.*



**Taurus**  
April 20 -  
May 20

Someone close to you is concerned with your busy ways that off the coast and show them a good time. *This weekend: dance the night away.*



**Gemini**  
May 21 -  
June 21

A great opportunity to prove yourself is coming your way. Don't let it pass you by, as you may regret it. *This weekend: inside down.*



**Cancer**  
June 22 -  
July 22

Don't put all your baggage out in the open for everyone to see. Playing mysterious will get you far this week. *This weekend: cheating.*



**Leo**  
July 23 -  
August 22

Shocking news will cause you to fly off the handle. Breathe, and restrain your actions before making any moves. *This weekend: Modeste.*



**Virgo**  
August 23 -  
September 22

Be spontaneous and burst out of your regular routine! Good things will come when you mix it up. *This weekend: opening it up.*



**Libra**  
September 23 -  
October 22

Your star-gazing attitude will catch the eye of a secret admirer. Eventually they will show themselves, until then just keep being you. *This weekend: looking back.*



**Scorpio**  
October 23 -  
November 21

Someone who doesn't like you is plotting a sabotage. Use your instincts to stop them before they ruin your reputation. *This weekend: back to work.*



**Sagittarius**  
November 22 -  
December 21

Your creative juices are flowing! Take advantage of this—they will help you to move forward. *This weekend: creative explosion.*



**Capricorn**  
December 22 -  
January 19

Someone you care for is caught in your past ways. If you don't rule down soon, they'll push you right out the door. *This weekend: rethinking.*



**Aquarius**  
January 20 -  
February 18

A new business opportunity is ahead in water. Paying close attention to the details could make or break your new venture. *This weekend: meeting up.*



**Pisces**  
February 19 -  
March 20

A stranger will need your help. Take the time to think carefully about your decision, not everything is as it seems. *This weekend: show some love.*

# Film is star-studded heartwarmer

BY TAMARA LEBRON

Last Vegas is an emotional rollercoaster that will have you laughing one second and wiping away a tear the next. The movie follows four best friends in their late 60s and their spontaneous weekend trip to Las Vegas for a bachelor party.

The movie, which was directed by Jim Turchese, was released on Nov. 7 and broke some of the best scores on the business. Michael Douglas, Robert De Niro, Morgan Freeman and Kevin Kline are the faces of the childhood friends who have lived five of their regular lives and made a last hurrah in Sin City.

The movie clearly resembles The Hangover, and could easily be one of its sequels 10 years down the line. The score is clearly directed at an older audience, as it shows us the funny and sad realities of aging.

Last Vegas was fun and heartwarming. Although the score appears more light than filled, the director made it was the real life problems that men



REUTERS/PAUL W. LOVETT

Last Vegas was released in theaters on Nov. 7 and brought in \$14.6 million at the box office.

and with the audience. Although it had its moments, the movie's message that each character individually finds at the end of the movie is endearing.

Though movie critics deemed the film too predictable, audiences liked it. On the weekend of its release it

brought in \$14 million at the box office, making it third behind Brad Pitt's Gravity and Brad Pitt's Gravity. Last Vegas is a good, life comedy. It won't be winning a Golden Globe, but it is a decent movie to watch if you need a little pick-me-up.

I give it three out of five stars.

## K-W ART GALLERY: CIRCLING THE INVERSE SQUARE

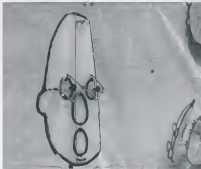


PHOTO BY AMBER BERRY

This is one of several great plastic images by artist Michael Swann that require large as an important subject in his work of plastic. The exhibit is one of those currently on display at the K-W Art Gallery.

Lady Collette channels her wisdom from the many alternate worlds. She also enjoys making organic clothing and doing gymnastics.



PHOTO BY BRUCE CHERRILL

Arnel Raimon, from left, Quinton Puri, Fabian Obichika, Obinwa Obinwa, and Tolson 'Yassu' Jones pose with their OneMatch photo.

## OneMatch comes to Conestoga

BY BRUCE CHERRILL

Today inside Door 4 at Conestoga's (1000) campus five international students will be manning a registration booth for OneMatch's (1000) 10th annual Harvest Network.

Conestoga's (1000) staff and other first-year support staff will be manning the booth. Arnel Raimon, Obinwa Obinwa, Fabian Obichika and Tolson 'Yassu' Jones, are all participants about OneMatch even though they aren't registered because they are not Canadian citizens.

The organization's members volunteer donors to patients who require stem cell transplants. Fewer than 50 percent of patients who need transplants will find a compatible donor within their own family so the organization relies on volunteers to donate.

"According to OneMatch's rules, so to speak, you have to be a part of the donation process," Puri said. "I can't donate because I don't have an Ontario health card, and I also need to have insurance that will cover everything because the donation process does involve law

enforcement."

But that hasn't stopped them from getting involved.

"There are a lot of people out there who need stem cells. Really, really need stem cells. Because there are a lot of cases for a lot of diseases. This gives people a ray of hope," Puri said, why they want to be a part of OneMatch.

"One basic idea is aware cases. We want people to know what stem cell donation is, because people don't know stem cell donation work stem cell research and what a lot of people don't know is that cells that are required for research are completely different than the ones that are donated."

In addition to making a big impact at their booth, Puri said he wants the people he gets a gift or pamphlet to go to home and tell their friends about it. Because you are going to affect a lot of lives."

You can register to donate at the OneMatch booth today inside Door 4 inside the Tim Hortons.

# WORKSHOP WEDNESDAY

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# Hawks claw Condors 30-0

BY JIM HART

Conestoga College's men's rugby team travelled to Hunter College on Nov. 10 for the Ontario Colleges Athletic Association semi-final game, where they were defeated by the Hunter Hawks 30-0.

The Condors managed to keep it close until halftime, allowing only one try before the break. Things fell apart after that, with another 25

points added by the Hawks during the final half.

The undefeated Hawks, who were heavily favoured to win the contest, moved on to the OCAA final, which was held this past weekend.

They faced the Algonquin Thunder, who were also undefeated, for the gold medal.

Conestoga took on the Trent University for the bronze.

Results were not available at press time.



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PHOTO BY JASON CHERRY

The winter weather is coming, yet these geese continue to bathe in Doon campus's pond. Why are these guys still here?

## These feathered friends are true Canadian symbols

Even in sub-zero temperatures, the black, white and grey birds are still a common sight around Doon campus



PHOTO BY JASON CHERRY

While most students and people would freeze to death, these geese have no problem with cold water